



Max 41°
Min 30°

NEW YORK

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

fashion week

Seeing red, lots of it

► It's getting hot with all the blazing colors on the runway {pages 16-17}



wellbeing

Chocoholics Anonymous

► Hey Sweet Tooth, it's candy season ► It's not all bad for you {page 18}

MADE CONNECTIONS

► Every day thousands of people pour their hearts out on Missed Connections ► Four New Yorkers on love at first sight ► Missed Connections party in Grand Central {pages 02}

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ILLUSTRATION BY SOPHIE BLACKALL



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It's the city that never sleeps — or misses a chance for love

► In a world of brief encounters, Craigslist's Missed Connections page is a hot spot for people to post their hopes for another meeting ► Four New Yorkers reveal what happens when cyberspace answers back ► Party at Grand Central

In a city of more than 8 million people and a subway system packed with 5.5 million riders daily, New Yorkers are primed for missed connections: glances exchanged across a train, or a conversation with a person never to be seen again.

In steps Craigslist's Missed Connections section, a perfect medium to try to find that gone-but-not-forgotten commuter.

The ads, addressed to "cashier at the Thrifty deli on Broadway" ("I have bought soda from you like six times and I don't even

At the Transit

Museum

- Thursday, February 14, 6-8 p.m.
- Vanderbilt Hall, Grand Central Terminal
- Tickets: advance \$10/\$7 for museum members; at the door \$15
- Head out to the main concourse afterward to crash a Missed Connection meeting at 8 p.m.!

drink soda," confesses a 20-year-old redhead pinning over her Morningside Heights soda vendor) or "Spanish girl working at Heartland Brewery" ("I think you're really cute and we smiled at each other," writes "the Asian guy" to his hostess crush), are often sweet snapshots of sparks flying between the denizens of a bustling city.

"It's very romantic," says Megan Gilbert, the target of a missed connection listing in 2007. The Transit Museum will host its annual Missed-

Connections-themed Valentine's Day event on Thursday in Grand Central, featuring illustrator Sophie Blackall and writer Alan Feuer. Feuer writes poems based on Missed Connections ads; Blackall has a book of illustrations of Missed Connections ads titled "Missed Connections: Love, Lost and Found."

Below, Metro looks at four New Yorkers who met their own missed Connections.



Danielle Tcholakian
danielle.tcholakian@metro.us

Q&A

Illustrator Sophie Blackall makes a connection

What prompted you to start illustrating Missed Connections? SB: In early 2009 I exchanged smiles with a handsome fellow on a crowded subway train. When he got off at his stop, he shouted "missed connections" through the closing doors. It was the first time I'd heard the phrase. I went home and Googled and was instantly engrossed, reading message after message. Each one was a fragment of a story, a tentative love letter to a stranger, a hopeful, hopeless message in a bottle. I knew straight away I wanted to draw them, to illustrate these moments frozen in time. A selection of my favorites are collected in my book, "Missed Connections, Love, Lost & Found."

Has anyone ever told you about realizing a missed connection you illustrated was about them?

Yes, a bunch of people have come forward — sometimes more than one for the same message!

Has anyone posted a missed connection about you, or have you ever posted one?

Someone once posted a very meta message: "To the artist who draws Missed Connections, I think I love you. Maybe you'll draw this message for your book!"

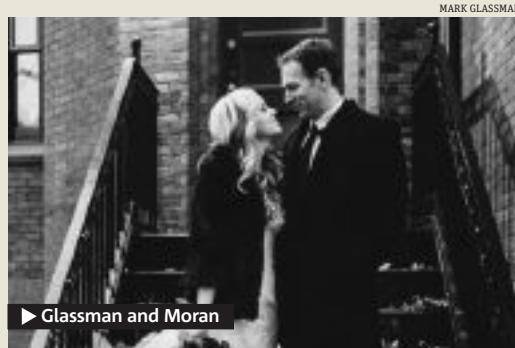
Michael Kaufman, freelance producer

I was on *Eliminate* in 2002, and this girl from California posted a Missed Connection about me.

She told me she and her friends would watch my episodes on repeat. It was weird; she would actually quote things I said on the show.



Kaufman



► Glassman and Moran

Mark Glassman, Bloomberg producer, and Elaine Moran, senior correspondent for Fuse News

Mark says: We met on the 1 train on Halloween in 2008. This is really embarrassing

Quoted

"This is really embarrassing — I was dressed as a male Playboy bunny."

GLASSMAN

— I was dressed as a male Playboy bunny. You know, you go out dressed like that and it ends up being a story about how you met your wife so you have to tell the story for the rest of your life. We had such a great conversation, I would've felt overly forward being this shirtless guy asking this girl for her number. I didn't want to spoil the moment but I regretted it, and the next day I posted to Missed Connections, and she responded 12 minutes later. I proposed to her on the 1 train on our three-year anniversary. I said something about how I still regret not asking for her number that time so could I give her a call sometime, and then I gave her a ring.

Lauren Shockey, writer of *Four Kitchens*

I posted a Missed Connections for a guy I saw at the Met: "My post was so-and-so at the opera, you were really cute, too bad you had a girlfriend." The guy responded saying the girl wasn't his girlfriend. "Even though you and your non-girlfriend seemed kind of coupley at the opera, if she is not in fact your

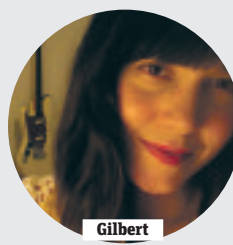


► Shockey

girlfriend, we should hang out sometime," I wrote back. We met for coffee at Starbucks but nothing ever came of it.

Megan Gilbert, senior copywriter at Gawker Media

I was reading Philip Larkin on the G train. This guy sat



Gilbert

down across from me and every time I looked up he was looking at me — not creepily, in a cute way. I used to poke around on Missed Connections for fun, and I found one that quoted Philip Larkin, which was dreamy. We met for a drink and were having a good time and then he's like, oh yeah, I'm moving to Seattle tomorrow. I kind of deflated. I guess I was looking for a relationship more than some random person.

In the news

Woman killed by 3 train

Police responded to yet another horrifying subway death yesterday morning in Brooklyn. At approximately 10:20 a.m., a woman estimated to be in her 40s was hit by a south-bound 3 train at Eastern Parkway and Utica Avenue. She was pronounced dead at the scene. An investigation is underway. Her identity will be released once her family has been notified.

METRO

In the news



Tourist raped in midtown alley

Police are searching for a man they said grabbed a tourist after she exited a taxi and sexually assaulted her in an alley. According to cops, the 20-year-old woman was getting out of a cab on East 58th Street when was assaulted. The attack happened around 3:30 a.m. Sunday, police said. The suspect is described as a male, black, 35-40 years old, 6-foot-2 and 190 pounds. Anyone with information should call 800-577-TIPS.

METRO/AB

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Childhood. Poverty

40%

Of children in the Bronx live below the poverty line

► A woman and a child walk past street art in the Hunts Point section of the Bronx.

GETTY IMAGES

Children most at risk in Brooklyn, Bronx

More than half of children are living in poverty in some New York City neighborhoods. That is one of the startling statistics in "Keeping Track of New York City's Children," a report issued by the Citizens' Committee for Children of New York. According to the report, children in Bronx and Brooklyn neighborhoods are the city's children who are most at risk. In Brownsville, for example, 52 percent of children live in poverty. And in the Bronx, four out of 10 children were living below the poverty line in 2011, the report stated.

The Bronx neighborhoods identified as highest risk were Hunts Point, Mott Haven and Morrisania. In Brooklyn, the data was still sobering, although a bit more positive — about one-third of children are in poverty there. ● METRO/AB

Most at-risk

in Brooklyn

Neighborhoods where kids face the highest risk are:

- Brownsville
- Bedford Stuyvesant
- East New York
- Bushwick
- East Flatbush

Singling out NYC

Neighborhoods with the most singles

In New York City, women outnumber men 1.07 to 1, according to U.S. census data. This ratio makes dating feel like you've been thrown in a boxing ring.

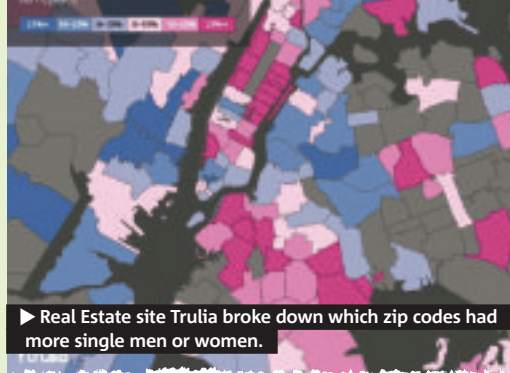
Real estate website Trulia is helping NYC singles by providing data on where other singles live.

Trulia looked at the ratio of single men and women across New York City and discovered the top areas for single men include south of 14th Street in Manhattan and parts of Queens, including Long Island City. These areas have more single men than women.

Upper Manhattan is the place to find single ladies.

Singles in New York City

Zipcodes are colored blue for more men and pink for more women. Gray zipcodes have too few singles to report.



► Real Estate site Trulia broke down which zip codes had more single men or women.

On the Upper East Side, in the zip code 10021, which covers most of the East 70s, there's almost two women single women for every

man who lives alone, according to Trulia.

 **Mary Ann Georgantopoulos**

News in brief

Fake grenades forces evac

The south wing of Port Authority bus terminal was

shut down for an hour on Monday night as police investigated a bag that was filled with what looked like grenades, NBC New York reports. The bomb squad

found the grenades were fake. Police evacuated the wing around 8 p.m. and it remained closed for about 45 minutes, causing delays.

● METRO/LS

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Source: Henriksen, Schleicher, Feighery and Fortmann.
Pediatrics: The Official Journal of the American Academy of
Pediatrics, July 19, 2010. DOI: 10.1542/peds.2009.3021

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In the news



▶ A worker attempts to clear the streets during the massive 2010 winter storm.

METRO FILE PHOTO

City wins fight over no-show workers in 2010 snowstorm

It has been more than two years since a massive snowstorm halted the city just after Christmas in 2010. Now, a ruling has brought a two-year fight between the Bloomberg administration and city workers to an end, allowing the city to dock pay for workers who did not show up to work, according to the New York Post.

According to the ruling, workers who didn't make it to work after the storm

were docked vacation or personal days.

District Council 37, the union representing most of the workers, had filed a grievance that its members could not make it to work

125K

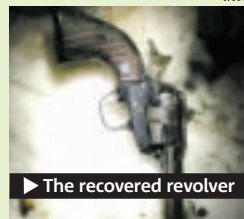
The ruling could affect 125,000 city employees and 60,000 other in related government entities such as the City University of New York.

because subways and buses were shut down.

● METRO/LS

Teen shot in Brownsville in stable condition

NYPD



▶ The recovered revolver

Police responded to reports of gunfire on a rooftop in Brownsville, Brooklyn, on Monday that ended with a 16-year-old shot three times.

A uniformed sergeant and officer deployed to the two adjoining roofs beside 2292 Atlantic Ave., and shot a 16-year-old boy armed with a Ruger revolver. The boy was shot in the left arm, right arm and right ankle. Police report he is in stable condition at Brookdale Hospital. The officers also took a 22-year-old accomplice into custody. Charges

are pending, police say.

● METRO/DT

Woman in fight for right to die passes away

A woman who fought with her parents about her right to die passed away this weekend. Grace Sung Eun Lee, 28, died Sunday, according to the Daily News. Lee had a brain tumor that confined her to bed. She reportedly told her parents that she wanted to be allowed to die. Her parents resisted in what became a public court battle last year. A judge ruled against the parents, but Lee ultimately sided with her family. Her brother told the Daily News her ventilator stopped working.

● METRO/AB



▶ Grace Sung Eun Lee

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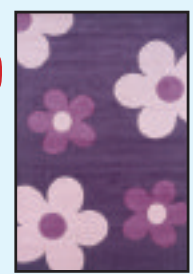


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In the news

Deputy killed in shoot-out with fugitive

A gunman thought to be a fugitive ex-cop barricaded himself inside a cabin in the mountains northeast of Los Angeles yesterday and traded gunfire with sheriff's deputies, killing one, authorities said.

A state game warden apparently on the lookout for Dorner exchanged gunshots with the driver of the stolen truck about 20 minutes later, and the suspect later abandoned the vehicle and fled on foot into the surrounding forest.

The gunman ultimately barricaded himself inside another cabin and engaged in a shootout with officers who closed in on him.

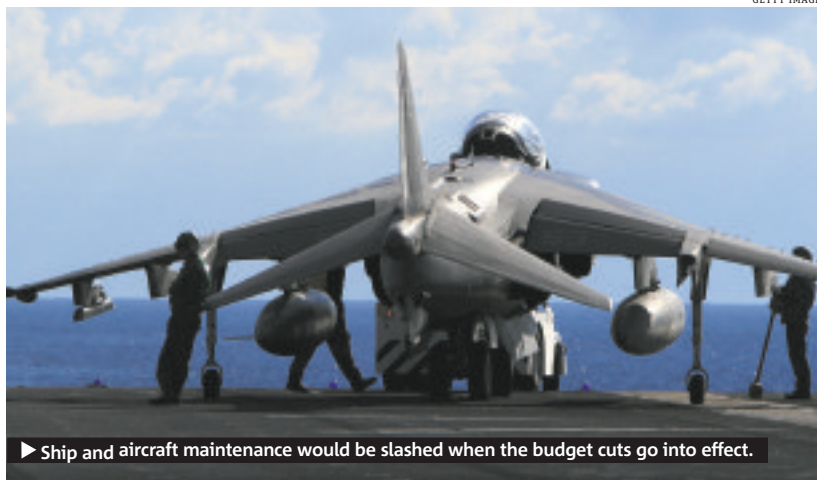
The cabin was on fire as authorities tried to determine whether the murder suspect was dead or alive. **REUTERS**

Pentagon leaders urge delay in 'devastating' \$46B in budget cuts

The Pentagon's civilian and military leaders warned in dire terms yesterday that \$46 billion in budget cuts due to go into effect in two weeks would erode the nation's ability to go to war and appealed to Congress to delay the reductions.

The automatic, across-the-board cuts will force the Pentagon to put most of its 800,000 civilian employees on unpaid leave for 22 days, slash ship and aircraft maintenance and curtail training, Deputy Defense Secretary Ashton Carter told the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"These devastating events are no longer distant problems. The wolf is at the door," Carter said as he and military chiefs appealed for Congress to take action to delay the cuts known as sequestration from taking effect beginning March 1.



► Ship and aircraft maintenance would be slashed when the budget cuts go into effect.

800K

Cuts will force the Pentagon to put most of its 800,000 civilian employees on unpaid leave for 22 days.

ning March 1.

For months, Pentagon officials have been painting a doomsday scenario if Congress does not come up with a replacement for the sequester. The cuts are already law, but when Congress enacted them in

August 2011, lawmakers never intended for them to happen. The thinking was that they would be so abhorrent that Democrats and Republicans would come up with an alternative budget-cutting plan.

REUTERS

Foreign policy risks

Underlining the risks facing the United States, the hearing took place just hours after North Korea's third nuclear test — something Defense Secretary Leon Panetta told Pentagon employees represented a "serious threat" to America.

Tensions with Iran over its nuclear program are also simmering, and General Mark Welsh, chief of staff of the Air Force, acknowledged future cuts could make it more difficult for the U.S. military to wage a preventive strike, if necessary.

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President announces withdrawal of 34,000 troops in SOTU speech

President Barack Obama announced in his State of the Union address last night that 34,000 troops — about half the U.S. force in Afghanistan — will return home by early 2014. Obama and Afghan President Hamid Karzai last month agreed to speed the handover of combat operations in Afghanistan to Afghan forces. There are currently about 66,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

It is the latest step toward unwinding the U.S. involvement in the unpopular war in Afghanistan.

Washington's NATO allies have also been steadily reducing their troop numbers despite doubts about the ability of Afghan



► Obama announced that by this time next year, 34,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan will have returned home.

66K

There are currently about 66,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

forces to shoulder full responsibility for security.

Afghan forces were expected to lead military operations across the country by this spring, with U.S. and international forces assisting through training and advising but no longer leading combat

operations.

Further troop reductions will continue through the end of 2014 as Afghans take full responsibility for their security. By the end of 2014, the United States war in Afghanistan will come to a close. **REUTERS**

In the news

GETTY IMAGES



Two charged in killing of inauguration teen

CHICAGO. Two reputed members of a Chicago street gang were charged on Monday in the murder of a 15-year-old girl who was gunned down days after performing with her high school band at inauguration festivities for President Barack Obama, police said.

The slaying of Hadiya Pendleton on Jan. 29, eight days after the majorette appeared at an inauguration event in Washington, highlighted a rash of deadly shootings

in Chicago and became a rallying cry for advocates for tougher gun control nationally.

Two men identified by police as gang members, Micheal Ward, 18, and Kenneth Williams, 20, both of Chicago, were charged with first-degree murder in connection with the shooting. **REUTERS**

Two Maryland students dead in murder-suicide shooting

WASHINGTON. Two University of Maryland students died early yesterday in an apparent murder-suicide shooting, and a third was wounded in the incident, police said.

It began shortly after the gunman set a fire around 1 a.m. in the basement of his house near the campus in College Park. When his roommates came to see what was happening, he shot them in front of the house before turning the gun on himself. **REUTERS**



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Vatican preps send-off for pope as speculation over successor begins

Cardinals around the world began informal contacts to discuss who should next lead the Church through a period of major crisis and the Vatican said it planned a big send-off for Pope Benedict before he becomes the first pontiff in centuries to resign.

At yesterday's news conference on how the pope plans to spend the next two weeks before he steps out of the limelight, the Vatican also disclosed that the 85-year-old Benedict has been wearing a pacemaker since before he was elected pope in 2005. It said no specific illness led him to resign, merely old age and diminishing mental and physical strength.

It also said he would



► Rosaries with pictures showing Pope Benedict XVI are displayed in a shop near the Vatican.

Last Mass

► Today, the pope was to have led a traditional Ash Wednesday service at a small church in Rome, but the event has been moved to St.

Peter's Basilica for what will likely be his last Mass in public.

► His last general audience has been moved to St. Peter's Square, which can hold hundreds of thousands.

"The pope has said in his declaration that he will use his time for prayer and reflection and will not have any responsibility for guidance of the Church."

FATHER FEDERICO LOMBARDI

not play any role in the running of the Church after his Feb. 28 resignation. The shock announcement sent the Vatican scrambling to change venues of some papal activities so that more people can see him before the resignation. **REUTERS**

A more catholic candidate ...

Speculation has grown that the Church could appoint its first non-European leader to reflect the growing weight of regions such as Africa or Latin America.

"It could be time for a black pope, or a yellow one, or a red one, or a Latin American," said Guatemala's Archbishop Oscar Julio Vian Morales after Benedict's announcement. **REUTERS**

42% Catholics Latin America or Africa



Brazil's Claudio Hummes



Philippines' Luis Tagle



Nigeria's Peter Turkson



US's Timothy Dolan

... for a more modern world

The next pope must try to revive Catholicism's influence in the face of modernity, and after sex-abuse and corruption scandals plagued Benedict's eight-year reign.

While cardinals such as the recently deceased Carlo Maria Martini, archbishop of Milan, called the church's leadership "200 years out of date,"

Benedict XVI stood for the old guard, speaking out against abortion, contraception and the idea that women could be priests even in the Anglican church. The Conclave that will choose a new pontiff must face the question of who can reinvent the millennia-old institution and inspire a dwindling flock, with academics and bookmakers putting clerics from Africa among the favorites. **BLOOMBERG**

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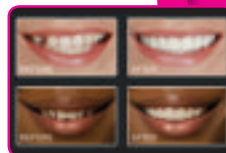


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THE WORD



Dorothy Robinson's take on the world of gossip [@dorothyatmetro](#) [dorothy.robinson@metro.us](#)

Meet Eau de Pizza Hut

Let's cut to the chase on this item: **Pizza Hut** has launched a promotional perfume called Eau de Pizza Hut. The chain is giving away 24 bottles of the stuff. To get your own, send tweets to @PizzaHut with the hashtag "LastMinuteLovers." Each package also includes a \$20 Pizza Hut gift card for Big Pizza Sliders or Lovers Pizza.

"The cologne has a slightly sweet base scent of freshly rising dough, but finishes decidedly savory with hints of Italian spice like oregano, vine-ripened tomato sauce, the crispness of fresh-sliced vegetables and all wrapped by wafts of cheesy goodness," said **Ashlee Firsten** of Aromachology, a custom perfumery in New York, in a press release. "It's really a quite complex combination of aromas that results in the hunger-inducing smell of a fresh Pizza Hut pizza."

"Wafts of cheesy goodness"? Wasn't that formula already patented for **Debbie Gibson's** Electric Youth perfume?



▶ Timberlake and Jay-Z collaborated on JT's most recent single, "Suit & Tie." We don't know about you, but we were seriously hoping for another "wardrobe malfunction" with this performance.

Is it true? Timberlake and Jay-Z to rock your body?

Quoted

"We're definitely going to go on tour. I don't know how much I should say."

TIMBERLAKE

The biggest summer blockbuster tour has (almost) been announced: There's a good chance that **Justin Timberlake** and **Jay-Z** will team up to out-cool a stadium near you.

"We're definitely going to go on tour," Timberlake told the New York Post on the Grammy red carpet Sunday. "I don't know how much I should say."

Rolling Stone echoes this off-the-cuff remark, saying the powers that be are working on a 12-stadium tour. The tour will support Timberlake's new album, "The 20/20 Experience" (featuring John Stossel ... in our dreams). And since **Beyonce** is also touring this summer, Jay-Z needs to find ways to kill time.

Possible titles?

Ideas for the tour name:

- ▶ Jay-Teez
- ▶ Big Pimpin', Little N'Syncin'
- ▶ Young, Gifted and Black (and White)
- ▶ 99 Problems (But An Ugly Wife Ain't One)

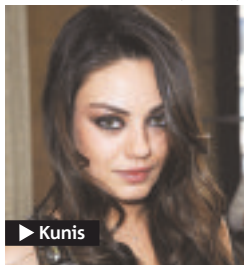
Talking points

Swift Google Alerts herself

Taylor Swift knows there are people out there talking about her love life, but she's doing her best to ignore it. "I'm sure if I looked up the latest Google Alerts rumor, it would say I'm chasing somebody who doesn't like me as much as I like him. People love that angle on me," Swift tells Elle

magazine. "They're like, 'Oh, Taylor, coming on too strong again, chasing boys.' I never chase boys. They don't like it!" And while her recent dig at ex **Harry Styles** at the Grammys might suggest otherwise, Swift insists she's not one to vent her anger. "I don't think I've ever yelled at an ex-boyfriend," she says. "Ever. I'm not a yeller. I'm not a fit-thrower. If something is done, it's done."

Kunis on her single days



▶ Kunis

Mila Kunis may have gone pretty quickly from a nine-year relationship with **Macaulay Culkin** to her current beau, former "That '70s Show" co-star **Ashton Kutcher**, but she still looks back fondly on

her bachelorette days. "For four years I was single," she tells Allure magazine, calling her days without a boyfriend "an amazing time." "I love being single," she says.

A 4-year-old makes more than you

Vivienne Jolie-Pitt, the 4-year-old daughter of **Angelina Jolie** and **Brad Pitt**, is already earning some impressive cash. The toddler was reportedly paid \$3,000 a week

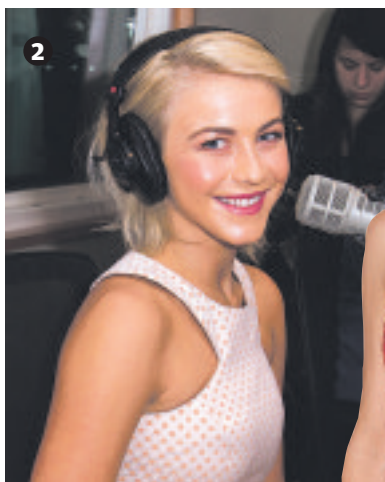
for a small role in her mom's upcoming film, "Maleficent," according to contracts obtained by TMZ.

ScarJo auditioned for 'Les Miz'

Scarlett Johansson admits that she had a shot at **Anne Hathaway's** Oscar-nominated role in "Les Misérables," but voice trouble plagued her audition. "I sang my little heart out," Johansson tells Broadway.com. "I auditioned with laryngitis."



Lea Michele



Timberlake snaps to it

1: Is this a new **Justin Timberlake** move, or the most exaggerated Carlton Banks dance of all time? JT rocked The Hollywood Palladium on Sunday.

2: **Julianne Hough** must be a pro at radio interviews since she's dating Ryan Seacrest. The actress visited Sirius XM Studios in NYC on Tuesday to promote "Safe

Haven."

4: Beards of a feather flock together: **Ben Affleck** and **George Clooney** headed to the after party for the EE British Academy Film Awards in London on Sunday.

5: "Oh God, if one more reporter asks about my affair with the nanny, I'm going to croak," we imagine **Jude Law** thinking here at the Berlin press conference for his new film, "Side Effects,"

on Tuesday.

6: We had to throw this one in because it's an underwater funeral, meant to highlight the importance of British marine life, that took place at the London Aquarium on Tuesday.

1: KEVIN MAZUR/WIRE IMAGE
2: ANNA WEBBER/GETTY IMAGES
3: MARK CUTHBERT/UK PRESS
4: TIM WHITBY/GETTY IMAGES
5: SEAN GALLAGHER/GETTY IMAGES
6: JOHN PHILLIPS/UK PRESS

3: **Kate Hudson** was a statuesque beauty at the Elle Style Awards in London on Monday.

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The Top 40 chillwave

► Toro Y Moi's Chaz Bundick further expands his sonic pallet on his new album 'Anything in Return' ► 'As long as I can keep my head on, it's OK,' the artist says

Soft-spoken Chaz Bundick (aka Toro Y Moi) has kept his bearings since his hazy, synth-driven bedroom-breakout "Causers of This" put him on the map in 2010. While his splash put him into the chillwave scene that also included other newbies like Washed Out and Neon Indian, inspirational (and operational) changes came soon for the South Carolina native. His 2011 follow-up "Underneath the Pine" saw him incorporate more live instruments and a band into his idiosyncratic lap-top creations.

"Anything in Return" continues the evolution of Toro Y Moi's sound by adding in deep disc-digging doses of down-tempo R&B, ambient hip-hop, underground disco and '90s diva house to the mix. At times it mirrors the retro



ANDREW PAYNTER

► Bundick says when he performs live he sometimes feels like he sounds like a Toro Y Moi cover band.

Toro's new toys

At times, the multiple layers of keys and percussion make Toro Y Moi's music hard to pull off live — so much so that Bundick jokes about

sounding "like a cover band" of his own music. "When I listen to 'Causers of This,' all I hear is laptops. God, I wish those were real keys. But that's in the past and not really worth regretting."

If you go

► **Toro Y Moi with Dog Bite and Wild Belle**
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www.ticketmaster.com

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lo-fi charm of its predecessors, but it is also the most polished, and eccentric work in his catalog.

"I was really trying to mess around with that Top 40 sound to see if I could come close to what they do, even just as an experiment," says Bundick,

who plays all the music and sings vocals on his records. "As long as I can keep my head on, it's OK."

"Anything in Return" plays out like a heavily textured, almost claustrophobic house mix of Bundick's current favorite sounds. Lost mostly in the mix is Bundick's own voice, which quietly coexists with the soulful samples that he drops on numerous tracks. "She knows I work hard," he sings on "Cake"—alluding to what he calls the album's central theme: being away from loved ones for the first time.

"Anything" might not be Toro Y Moi's most accessible work, but fans seeking new explorations won't be disappointed.



Jonathan Donaldson
letters@metro.us

TV watch list

'Survivor: Caramoan — Fans vs. Favorites'

REALITY. Longtime "Survivor" fans will rejoice at the latest incarnation of the popular island-based reality show, which enters its 26th season tonight. This round finds 10 former castaways competing against 10 superfans. 8 p.m., CBS

'Inside the Actors Studio'

TALK SHOW. Hugh Jackman makes his second appearance on the long-running talk-fest, this time stopping by to chat with James Lipton about portraying Wolverine and "Les Miz" protagonist Jean Valjean. We just hope the interview will feature Jackman's signature tap-dancing. 8 p.m., Bravo

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FASHION WEEK

Fashion Week diary

MONDAY, FEB. 11

1 p.m.

It's been a week of textured, technical knits, which is an area of expertise for **Ohne Titel**. Flora Gill and Alexa Adams have developed a reputation for manipulating knitwear in creative ways over the years, so I'm curious to see what they come up with this go 'round. For the new season, it's a weaving technique that appears on striking looks such as a shirt dress worn over a delicate wisp of a silk and sequin skirt.

Graphically, the weaving idea also plays out through a series of grid prints on pajama-like trousers, blouses and dresses. Best of all, these stylish things look impressively easy to wear. These are intelligent clothes for girls' girls like Tank magazine editor, street style celebrity and J.Crew campaign star Caroline Issa, who styled the show. Flora and Alexa's growing fan base should be pleased.

● KENYA HUNT

2:10 p.m.

Donna Karan's collections always remind me of dancers — something about the way her drape, bias-cut dresses elongate the body strike me as being very Martha Grahamesque. If the choreographer were alive today, she'd look at home in any one of Donna's sinuous jet-black skirts that dance and swirl about the hips. The impressive thing is that Donna's managed to create skirt suits that look about as comfortable to wear as a



Reactions from the Twitterverse

Anne Slowey @ASLOWEY
If only my rat's nest measured up to those at Marc by Marc. Instead, i look like Ratatouille.

John Jannuzzi @JOHNJANNUZZI
Oh great, now we're gonna have to see all the style blog-

gers wearing crowns of thorns. Thanks for that, Thom Browne.

Dazed and Confused @DAZEDMAGAZINE
The message at @31philliplim? Come as you are — as long as it's by motorcycle

not cute. @AMILLIONALIVE
Donna Karan's A/W 13-14 line does *things* to my

body.

Nessa Lilly @VANESSA_LILLY
3.1 Phillip Lim F/W 13 has me counting down the months until this collection is in my closet!

Raia Gomez @RAIAGOMEZ
.@alice_olivia has got the 4 C's down: Cookies, Cake pops, Champagne and of course Clothing!

pair of yoga pants. That's because her tailored jackets come paired with easy, jersey skirts that are free of any kind of boxy, boardroom stiffness. It's a classic Donna Karan solution to a common urban working woman's problem. I'm not quite sold on her experiments with texture, however. A chocolate brown gown made of collaged shiny and matte silk panels with a leather bodice seems to take things a concept too far. ● KH

3 p.m.

I always love how **3.1 Phillip Lim** gracefully balances just the right amount of tomboy with just enough urban grit and isn't afraid to stick a bow on it. Biker babes are on his mind for fall — not so much Harley-Davidson fanatics, but rather stylish city-dwellers who can't wait to ditch their corporate obligations and hit the open road. Their uniform: chic motorcycle jackets, quilted shorts that hang perfectly so and tough pencil skirts embellished with zippers. These looks are grounded in reality with artful layering (preppy oxfords under shrunken crewneck sweaters under buttery leather jackets), clean lines (the boxy double-breasted coats) and a lovely color palette (sweet pink, warm tan and rich teal). Over-the-knee open-toe leather boots and cross-body bags take the cool quotient into high gear. As I walk out the door, I overhear editors chatting about which pieces are already on their lists. This is one of those times when I wish I didn't have to wait a whole six months to buy. ● TINA CHADHA

4:20 p.m.

Still buzzing from Phillip Lim, I trek over to view **Jil Sander Navy**, which is being shown in an intimate presentation, complete with little civilized finger sandwiches, rather than a grand catwalk extravaganza like it's big sister line in Milan. The collection is exactly what you'd expect from the minimalist house: simple, beautiful tailored clothes, and at a slightly more affordable price point to boot. It's not hard to spot the winners: a fitted bomber, cropped shearling and shrunken wool pea coat. Gimme! ● TC

5:10 p.m.

Unlike Paris, New York's runway shows aren't known for theatrics, fantasy or drama. So a **Thom Browne** affair is always a little island of creativity, eccentricity and risk-taking in a sea of slick, white box productions. Bring it. This season, Thom Browne's theatrical set is a winter scene of dead, snow-capped trees that stand like prison bars around men in suits who are blindfolded and taped to beds. They're lying there as if they've been hunted and dressed for dinner. Naturally, the spectacle is an Instagram magnet. Hardly anyone is sitting in their seats because they're too busy photographing the bondage scene on their iPhones. Not that I can judge: I've already posted three filtered pics of it all on Twitter. No one seems to notice that Sandra Bernhard is in the room, sitting quietly in the front row. ● KH

5:15 p.m.

If Tim Burton directed an episode of "Twin Peaks" and set it in the 19th cen-

Trend: Saville Row tailoring



Tommy Hilfger



Rag & Bone



Thom Browne

Trend: Tomato red



DKNY



Marc by Marc Jacobs



Zero Maria Cornejo

REVS ITS ENGINE



Thom
Browne

tury, it might look like this. It's pretty safe to assume that Thom's dazed, slightly sinister-looking models are coming in for the kill. How else to explain those long, blood red nails? Dressed in elaborately constructed dresses and skirt suits that draw heavily on English references (Prince of Wales check and tweed, a mixture of Elizabethan and Victorian shapes), his pale-faced corpse brides circle the men, dangling long-stem red roses the way I imagine a serial killer would finger an instrument of some kind of torture. Storyline guessing aside, the clothes are much more of a fantastical statement. This is not the place to look for wardrobe staples, unless your name is Helena Bonham Carter. But let's not forget that Thom was the man behind Michelle Obama's inaugural coat. Strip away the exaggerated hips on a few of those wool, silk and tweed cinched-waist coat dresses and you've got a few timeless pieces that could work off the runway. ● KH



Jil Sander
Navy



Alice + Olivia

straws. Glitzy chandeliers and wallpaper transform the dingy warehouse space into an opulent ballroom. I feel like I'm in a nightclub, an appropriate backdrop for Stacey Bendet's glamorous fall line. At least, I think it's glamorous. It's kind of

hard to see the collection because the place is packed with editors, bloggers and buyers jockeying for the perfect Instagram or a chocolate cake pop, which are now being passed around. The clothes could almost get lost in the mix, but thanks

Metro's style director **Kenya Hunt** and style editor **Tina Chadha** are reporting from New York Fashion Week. Read their daily dispatches for the latest on what's coming down the runway and follow them on Twitter: @KENYAMETROSTYLE @TINAATMETRO

to the collection's attention-demanding sequins, beaded embellishments and shiny jacquard, our attention stays focused. Standouts include a dramatic ball gown skirt with graphic florals, a sparkly gray sequin sweatshirt and skirt combo as well as a sexy bustier jumpsuit with trim tuxedo pants. Wear these to any party and you'll own the crowd. ● TC

8:09 p.m.

Marc Jacobs is perhaps the only designer who not only gets his audience in their seats on time, but a few minutes early. At any other show, editors don't arrive until about 10 minutes after the start time. But tonight, the entire place is completely full at just nine minutes past the hour. That's impressive when you think about the fact that a lot of guests accidentally went to the Armory where he normally shows each season. He changed the time (it was originally scheduled for 4 p.m.) and location due to the blizzard. ● KH

8:15 p.m.

Marc's girls look perfectly neat and put-together in a mix of tailored separates that come in retro, '70s silhouettes and pretty dresses that would seem outright prim if it weren't for their trippy graphic prints. Standouts such as a demure graphic top and matching full skirt or wide-leg pinstripe pants worn under a three-quarter length naval coat look like good wardrobe additions for college seniors preparing for their first big publishing internship in the city. And now that I think about it, I wore Marc Jacobs for my first big magazine job interview. ● KH



► Marc by Marc Jacobs showed retro looks. ● KH

5:35 p.m.
There's already a line down the block for the **Alice + Olivia** presentation, or rather, party. Waiters walk around with trays of bubbly or, for those on assignment like, ahem, me, sparkling water with adorable striped paper

mywellbeing

What we're into



Stress relief for veterans

The New York College of Health Professionals has teamed up with Hands for Heroes to offer free massages for veterans at its Manhattan and Syosset, Long Island, clinics. All vets need to do is call a clinic to schedule an appointment and bring proof of service upon arrival.

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● METRO/ME

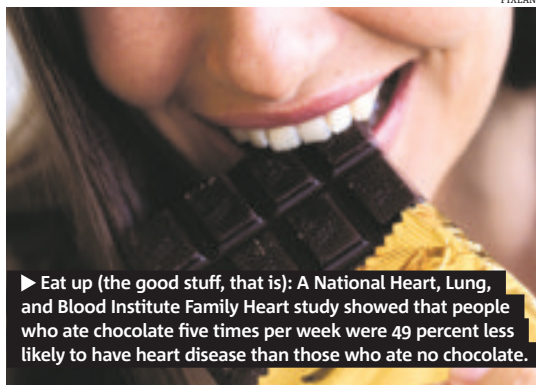
This Valentine's Day, bring on the chocolate

- Exactly why it can help keep your ticker going strong
- Keep popping those Hershey's Kisses after Feb. 14 — one a day can keep your blood pressure stable
- But say no to white

Sweethearts needn't feel guilty about giving, or receiving chocolate this Valentine's Day. According to University of Scranton chemistry professor Joe Vinson, Ph.D., chocolate's healthy rep as being antioxidant-rich is growing.

"I keep looking for the bad," says Vinson, who was among the first researchers to report that chocolate, especially dark chocolate, was good for your heart. "But I still can't find any negatives to chocolate. Polyphenols are good for you and chocolate has lots of them."

Polyphenols, a class of compounds present in



► Eat up (the good stuff, that is): A National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Family Heart study showed that people who ate chocolate five times per week were 49 percent less likely to have heart disease than those who ate no chocolate.

plant foods that have antioxidant properties, reputedly scavenge the free radicals that damage cells and make them more susceptible to diseases such as

cancer.

But not all chocolate is created equal. It's important to select pure chocolate and not candy bars, and make sure it has a

Quote

"I keep looking for the bad, but I still can't find any negatives to chocolate."

VINSON

high amount of cocoa solids. The higher the cocoa solids, the higher the antioxidant effect. In his research, Vinson found chocolate containing 70 percent cocoa solids had twice the polyphenols as 35 percent. Vinson advises reading the label and choosing 70 percent or higher for health.

What about white?

White chocolate, made of cocoa butter and sugar, has no detectable polyphenols and no known health benefit — in fact, Vinson says it can make things worse: "Fat and sugar cause oxidative stress in the body."

The consensus is that moderate dark chocolate consumption has health benefits. But how much is moderate?

"I can't confirm an amount for health," Vinson says. "In studies comparing low dose and high dose, there was no noticeable benefit from the higher dose. One study found that blood pressure benefited after one dark chocolate Hershey Kiss. It happened over a four-month period. So, possibly, a low dose of chocolate over time has the most beneficial effect."

Linda Clarke
letters@metro.us

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CONTEST BEGINS TOMORROW 2/14!

metro

Health notes

Be a part of history

The American Cancer Society is recruiting New Yorkers for a nationwide long-term study that will help researchers better understand the genetic, environmental and lifestyle factors that cause or prevent cancer. Past studies have led to really amazing findings, like the links between obesity and cancer or smoking and cancer. Want to get involved? You must be between 30 and 65 and never have been diagnosed with cancer, and you must be willing to fill out follow-up surveys every few years for the next 20-30 years (we told you it was long-term). Learn more at tomorrow's kickoff from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the American Cancer Society (132 W. 32 St., sixth floor).

● METRO/ME

mywellbeing

Fitness picks

No cash for the gym? No problem

Hit up one of these unexpected places for a gratis workout.

The JCC in Manhattan

334 Amsterdam Ave., 646-505-4444

The JCC offers a seasonal schedule of free classes. Try your hand at Nia, an alloy of dance, martial arts and yoga, or drop in to learn about health and wellness.

On our radar: Modern Afro-Folkloric Caribbean Dance to Live Drums, select Saturdays in March, 7:15 p.m.

New York Public Library

www.nypl.org/events/public-programs

The NYPL boasts an impressive array of free classes in several locations. You now have a good excuse to try Zumba, belly dancing, ballet, Tae Kwan Do and more.

On our radar: Wii Fit for Adults, Mondays, 2 p.m., George Bruce Library, 518 W. 125 St.



► The New York Road Runners can help you find a free running group.

City of New York Parks and Recreation

www.nycgovparks.org/programs/recreation/shape-up-nyc

The Shape Up NYC program provides a variety of freebies in all five boroughs, including classes that cater to specific groups like seniors and pregnant women.

On our radar: Latin Cardio, Tuesdays at 5:15 p.m., Kings County Hospital, Clarkson & New York avenues, Brooklyn

New York Road Runners

www.nyrr.org/new-york-area-clubs

Not a class, per se, but this comprehensive list of NYC running clubs can

help you find a supportive group of running buddies. Pick a level and commitment that works for you.

On our radar: The North Brooklyn Runners, www.northbrooklynrunners.org

Brooklyn Bridge Park

www.brooklynbridgepark.org/events/public-events/recreation

The park offers several comp recreation classes throughout the year. Check the schedule intermittently to see when guided activities such as kayaking, volleyball and biking take place.

On our radar: Sunset Pilates, visit the website for scheduling info.

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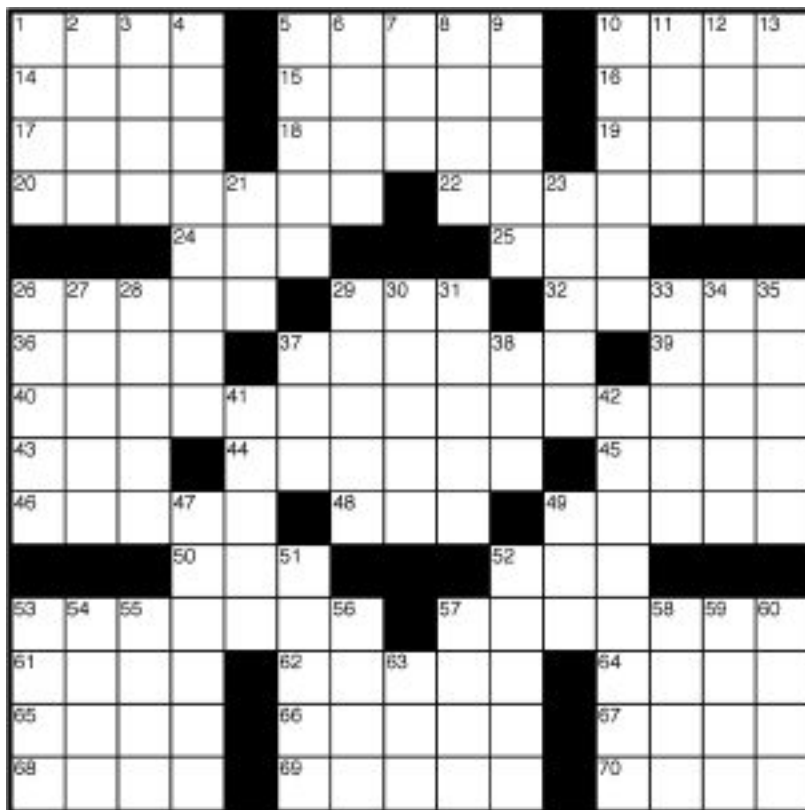
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Across

1 Attire
5 Accolade for a diva
10 Unravel
14 Kind of tradition
15 Moray fisherman
16 Chalet feature
17 Gymnast — Korbut
18 Copy
19 Mo. bill
20 Established
22 "So what?" (2 wds.)
24 Speckle
25 Genetic code
26 Consumer voice
29 Mi. above sea level
32 Snapshot collection
36 Mother lodes
37 Regardless
39 Carioca's home
40 Tigris/Euphrates region (2 wds.)
43 King beater
44 Equipped
45 Behind schedule
46 Spoken for
48 Charlotte of "Bananas"
49 Piano part
50 "... the giftie — us" (Burns)
52 The lady
53 Down payment
57 More icky
61 Dr. Zhivago
62 Put off
64 While away
65 Piccadilly statue
66 Swashbuckling Flynn
67 Radar O'Reilly's soda
68 Cushiony
69 Locomotive need
70 Make headway

Down

1 Blow it
2 Woody's son
3 Pasta-sauce brand
4 Mildest
5 Tam
6 Cattail
7 Mont Blanc or Jungfrau
8 Hop, skip or jump
9 Calla lily, e.g.



10 Medieval
11 Assign a rank
12 Reebok rival
13 Bellow
21 Dung beetle
23 Nibbles away
26 Yogurt type (hyph.)
27 Betel nut
28 Actress Bo —
29 Keep — to the ground
30 Swimsuit fabric

31 A crowd?
33 Sandwich need
34 Rockies range
35 Exit ramp sight
37 Pub pint
38 U.K. lexicon
41 — fatuus
42 Minding the cash register
47 "Me" devotee
49 Marker
51 Fluffy quilt

52 Throws hard
53 Applies henna
54 Large kangaroo
55 Faculty mem.
56 Prefix for "trillion"
57 Earth sci.
58 Brainstorm
59 Grades 1-12
60 Horse's brake
63 Wk. day

Horoscope

♊ Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 19. Even though you're inclined to even the score with someone who did something that you deeply resent, try to find out the motives behind this person's actions. You'll have a smarter reaction.
♓ Pisces Feb. 20-March 20. Every once in a while, you're far too generous to an underserving person. This is one of those days when you might again exercise such poor judgment.
♈ Aries March 21-April 19. Be extremely selective about the goals you pursue. Make sure they will bring you satisfaction once you've achieved them.
♉ Taurus April 20-May 20. Because of a reluctance on your

part to express what is really disturbing you, friends and/or associates could find you perplexing, as well as difficult to deal with. Speak out.
♊ Gemini May 21-June 20. It behooves you to be more selective about those with whom you choose to associate. Steer clear of companions who have a faculty for making waves and causing trouble.
♋ Cancer June 21-July 22. For the sake of harmony, try to view things from your mate or other house member's perspective. What's important to you might not be to him.
♌ Leo July 23-Aug. 22. Having a bad attitude about the day's duties is likely to produce bad results. Putting a smile on your face will make your job quite a bit easier.
♍ Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Although you may be having dif-

ficulty getting someone who is indebted to you to settle his or her account, applying pressure won't help. Find another way.
♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23. Be extremely diplomatic when dealing with your mate or an important person in your life if you hope to maintain domestic harmony. Nothing will be gained by bringing up old, divisive issues.
♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22. Overstepping the fine line between constructive criticism and nitpicking could produce a situation that will surprise even you. Be more sensitive about what you say and how you say it.
♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21. Should you want to make a purchase from a firm that you've never dealt with, make sure the merchandise can be

returned in case you have second thoughts.
♊ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19. If a person with whom you're involved isn't living up to his or her claims, you'll handle it much better if you're congenial. Don't be authoritarian or harsh.
BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Solution to yesterday's crossword



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Letters

Need a new pope? Look no further than NY

RE: "POPE'S ABRUPT RESIGNATION SURPRISES CATHOLIC CHURCH" (METRO, FEB. 13) Pope Benedict XVI has just announced that he will retire. Now as a Catholic and a grand knight in the Knights of Columbus, I was shocked.

I feel the church is facing many issues in our ever-changing world. I feel, though, there is

There's a lot going on

... and Metro wants to hear from you!

- How do you think the pope's resignation will impact the Catholic Church and beyond?
- Which parts of President Barack Obama's State of Union address did you most agree or disagree with?
- Which Grammy winners were most deserving — and who do you think got left out in the cold?
- Don't be shy — we want to know!

one cardinal who might be up to the challenges — and that is Cardinal Timothy Dolan. He is a relatively young cardinal who is committed to the church and its people.

He is not afraid to speak out on the issues and he urges more Catholics to do so.

Here in Cardinal Dolan we have a man of God, who is not afraid of controversy and who will speak out for his religious beliefs and who has spoken out for religious freedom for all people. **FREDERICK R. BEDELL JR., VIA E-MAIL**

Oversight never hurt rights

America put in strict but secure measures to better ensure Sept. 11 could not happen again while still allowing people to travel by air. Can we apply the same decent, reasonable logic to guns in this country or is America nothing more than the land of violent mental patients?

How about we don't ban all weapons or things that could in any conceivable way be used as a weapon, such as a pillow, and we also put in common sense rules about people not having the right to own and operate military-grade weapons or even a cap gun if you happen to have 17 assault charges on your record?

We regulate KNIVES better than we do guns **DOUGLAS BROWN, VIA E-MAIL**

SUDOKU: EASY

8				6	1			
9		3	5					
5	6	1			9		8	
2		7				9		3
				9				
6		9				7		2
	9		2			3	1	6
					4	2		5
			1	3				4

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

E-mail your letters:
letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact information.

Is it time for break yet?

- Knicks have one game to play before week off for All-Star Game
- Woodson dismisses fatigue factor ► Blames slump on defense

Knicks head coach Mike Woodson is an optimist, which would explain why he seemed a little flummoxed when asked if losing two of their last three games was a sign of things to come.

"You look at it as two [losses] out of three, but I think we've won seven of our last 10 games. That's how I look at it," Woodson said. "We've got a big, important game [tonight] before we go into the break, so we've got to finish it off. Then, we'll go and sit for three or four days and kind of rethink how we can be better."

Woodson does not believe fatigue is weighing down his team's performances — no matter what recent losses to the Wizards and Clippers may



► Amar'e Stoudemire, 30, and Jason Kidd, 39, say fatigue isn't an issue.

ON TV TONIGHT

Knicks vs. Raptors
7:30 p.m., MSG

have shown down the stretch.

"If that was the case, I don't think we'd be in the position we're in today," Woodson said, dispelling the fatigue factor. "We've got 82 games just like everybody else. We've got

a solid roster, [and] I like the makeup of our team, so, no, I wouldn't use fatigue as an excuse."

Tony Williams
sports@metro.us

Woodson: Blame defense for recent struggles

Woodson said he thinks the real culprit isn't fatigue, but instead the Knicks' defense — or a lack thereof.

New York allowed an average of 104 points in their two recent losses, meaning the defensive intensity has waned a bit in his eyes.

Amar'e Stoudemire has never been known for his defense, but he's bought into Woodson's defensive philosophy.

"We have offensive juggernauts, guys who can score the ball. We have guys who can score and lots of weapons we can use," said Stoudemire. "I feel we have a great team on both ends, [and] we know it all starts on the defensive end."

● METRO/TW

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New York Mets

Santana opens as ace, but what comes next?

Mets starter Johan Santana began the 2012 season as a question mark, punctuated his return to health with the franchise's first no-hitter and then ended the season on the DL.

He plans to be more consistent in 2013.

"I'm more about my health than anything. I just want to make sure I play throughout the whole season and help as much as I can," Santana told reporters yesterday on the Mets' second day of camp. "What's going to happen in the future, I don't really know. I've just got to stay healthy and see what the future will bring."

Santana has just one year at \$25.5 million remaining on his contract, making him an obvious candidate to be traded midseason. But that all depends on him being healthy enough to pitch — and at a high level —



► Santana

throughout the first half of the season. He also had a no-trade clause in his contract, but took a "we'll see" approach to speculation yesterday.

As for his manager, he's more concerned with Santana's health and performance for his club.

"Johan Santana is the ultimate pro. He's going to be the Opening Day starter," Terry Collins said. "He'd be the guy."

The team still believes the reason for Santana's drop-off last season had nothing to do with his no-hitter despite an 8.27 ERA in 10 starts afterward.

"I think the ankle changed the whole thing," Santana said of a sprain he suffered July 6 against Chicago. Time will tell. ● METRO

New York Yankees

Yankees talking expectations on Day 1 of camp

Manager Joe Girardi knows the club that enters the 2013 season looks a lot like the one that exited the 2012 season with a disappointing sweep at the hands of the Tigers.

In fact, if anything, the Yankees are shorter on players — with Raul Ibanez and Russell Martin the biggest names to depart.

"We're still a very talented club," Girardi told reporters yesterday as pitchers and catchers reported to Tampa, Fla. "I know we didn't get it done in the playoffs, but you can win 105 games and not win in the playoffs. That doesn't mean you weren't a good team. There were teams that made big splashes in the free-agent market last year and were expected to win the World Series and get to the playoffs and didn't even get there. There's no guarantee."



► Girardi

Alex Rodriguez, meanwhile, is still a part of the Yankees' roster, he's just not going to be getting anywhere near camp this spring. Girardi said yesterday Rodriguez would continue to rehab in New York, as opposed to joining the team.

"We feel at this point the best place for him to be is in New York rehabbing under the doctor's supervision," Girardi said. "There will come a point where he is able to do more and that will change."

When that will change is unknown. Rodriguez has yet to answer questions about performance-enhancing drug allegations made earlier this month. His return from hip surgery may come after the All-Star break. ● METRO

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Building a nest with Etsy

► More moms are taking to the Web to customize their nurseries ► Why there's an online advantage

Parents looking to create a unique nest for their babies are turning in droves to the countless shops on Etsy that focus on custom nursery decor and artwork.

"I had looked previously on other traditional sites, but I liked the idea of getting something that was a bit less mainstream," says Traci Tasso, a New York mom who purchased art on Etsy for her daughter's nursery.

The crafting website has been around for about seven years, but lately more specialists on the site are churning out crafts for little ones. From quilts to baby bumpers, Etsy is chock full of items that can be customized by gender,

Beyond 128

Two Sudbury moms have started a baby company called Twelve Little Laces, customizing arrival gift baskets, birthday party treats and other personalized items. Megan Bowhens and Laura Hoff claim Etsy is a great way to market their company beyond Rte. 128. Twelve Little Laces can be found on Etsy or at www.twelvelittlelaces.com

theme and color scheme frequently at a much lower price than from a local boutique. Moms and dads can best their neighbors'

nurseries by having crib skirts monogrammed, artwork created to reflect their boy's favorite baseball teams and canvases painted to perfectly match bedding.

"It's the height of customization because you can get pretty much anything you want," says Jen Snyder, a Michigan mom who sells digital prints at Area Fare Kids on Etsy.

The conversation element of Etsy allows artists and buyers to message back and forth and customize orders.

Many of the artists are moms-turned-artists who garner inspiration from their own little ones.

"I couldn't find any-



► Stephanie Brandt of Philadelphia has a store on Etsy.com, Just Bunch, that specializes in nursery art like these prints of dolls.



► Brandt's alphabet banner can also be customized.

thing that I loved in the stores, and since I have always enjoyed drawing and painting I decided to create something for above [my son's] crib," says Stephanie Brandt of Philadelphia, whose store on Etsy is called Just Bunch. "I had

enjoyed making the artwork so much, and had received so many compliments on it, that I decided to create designs and put them for sale."



Christina Wallace
letters@metro.us

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ARVERNE APARTMENTS
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at home with metro

Real estate



► The market is favoring brokers even before the thaw.

For brokers, an early spring

So much for a winter slow-down. Even as the mercury dipped in January, demand for apartments was high. Driving the fast-moving market, experts said, were plunging inventory and low-interest financing.

"Limited inventory options and increased demand will definitely push prices higher this winter," said Lisa Strobing, an executive vice president at Bellmarc Realty, noting that January was as busy

as springtime and saw "solid traffic."

The higher end of the market, which has been outpacing the rest of the market for some time, proved particularly strong in January, according to the Olshan Luxury Market Report.

During the week ending Jan. 20 alone, some 19 contracts over \$4 million were signed, with the majority of those pricey properties situated on Manhattan's Upper East Side. By comparison, during the best week of January 2012, only seven deals over \$4 million were signed, according to

Olshan's data.

Last month followed a similarly busy December. As the Real Deal has reported, in the fourth quarter of 2012, sales in Manhattan spiked a dramatic 29.2 percent year-over-year to 2,598 closed deals, according to Douglas Elliman's market report, which is prepared by appraisal firm Miller Samuel.

TheRealDeal.com is a daily blog and monthly magazine covering real estate in the New York metro area.

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